

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraphs [0023], [0040], and [0049] as indicated below. Applicant is submitting herewith replacement paragraphs without markups.

[0023] With reference to the figures, a variable shear line lock cylinder 10 is provided and includes an outer cylinder 12, an inner cylinder 14, a plurality of pin assemblies 16, a lock assembly 18, and actuation mechanism 20. The outer cylinder 12 rotatably receives the inner cylinder 14 while the pin assemblies 16 are disposed therebetween. The pin assemblies 16 are operable to selectively prevent rotation of the inner cylinder 14 relative to the outer cylinder ~~14~~ 12 and are positionable relative to the inner and outer cylinders 14-12 through engagement with the lock assembly 18. In addition, the actuation mechanism 20 interacts with the pin assemblies 16 and is operable to allow rotation of the inner cylinder 14 relative to the outer cylinder 12, as will be discussed further below.

[0040] The upper actuation pin 158 includes a generally L-shape having a first leg 172 slidably received by the actuation bore 98 of the upper shear cylinder 72 and a second leg 174 formed generally perpendicular to the first leg 172. The second leg 174 includes a reaction surface 176, whereby the reaction surface 176 abuts the pin engagement surface 168 of the cam 156, as best shown in FIG. ~~[[5]]~~4. The overall length of the reaction surface 176 is governed by the overall length of the upper lock rack 136 to ensure that the reaction surface 176 maintains constant engagement with the pin engagement surface 168 of the cam 156 as the upper shear cylinder 72 is moved relative to the upper lock rack 136 through the plurality of locking recesses 144.

[0049] Once the upper spring 160 is sufficiently compressed, the first leg 172 of the actuation pin 158 will translate within the actuation bore 98 of the upper shear cylinder 72 and engage the engagement bore 106 of the upper pin 76. In this regard, the upper pin 76 is locked in a fixed position relative to the upper shear cylinder 72 to prevent the upper spring 160 from biasing the upper pin 76 out of

engagement with the upper shear cylinder 72. As can be appreciated, without the lower pin 78 to hold the upper ~~in~~ pin 76 within the upper shear cylinder 72, the upper spring 160 would cause the upper pin 76 to be released from the upper shear cylinder 72 at the open end 94.